

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS18491

In 2005 the Legislature enacted HB 131 creating the Guardianship Pilot Project. The purpose of the project was to evaluate and improve the monitoring of guardianship and conservatorship cases so that the assets of our most vulnerable population can be protected. The bill had a sunset provision with a date of July 1, 2009. The project has been extremely effective; between 2005 and 2007, compliance with required reporting in the six project counties has increased from less than 30% to 85%. Independent third-party review of reports has been implemented, technology for the tracking of accounting and reporting has been developed, and many cases of potential fraud have been referred for investigation. In order to further pursue the goals of HB 131 and implement the policies, procedures and forms thus far developed in all counties, this bill would repeal the sunset provision of HB 131, and would specifically provide that reports, accounts, and inventories filed in conservatorship cases are subject to review as provided by rules adopted by the Idaho Supreme Court.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill would make no change in the fees currently being assessed pursuant to Idaho Code § 31-3201G, which are deposited in the Guardianship Pilot Project Fund. The funds that have been collected thus far and deposited in the Fund will be used to extend the monitoring procedures developed by the project to all 44 counties; as of January, 2009, the Fund's balance is approximately \$342,000. As additional funds become necessary to continue this work, the Supreme Court will work with the Legislature to identify sources of funding.

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